

National Trust

eNews

The National Trust of Australia (NT) is a community based, not for profit heritage charity dedicated to promoting and conserving the heritage of the Northern Territory.



Heritage Festival 2015

“Conflict & Compassion”



The 2015 Heritage Festival is just around the corner and there is an array of activities, talks, and tours planned all throughout the Top End so be sure not to miss out!

The program of events can be viewed & printed from our website www.nationaltrustnt.com.au and Please feel free to share it around via our Facebook page!

The Entry Form for the Photographic Competition can also be printed from the website or collected from the office between 9 am – 2 pm Monday – Friday.

Entries Close April 1 so please get in quick!

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Election Alert

Elections for Council will be called for

30 June 2015.

ONLY Current financial members are eligible to nominate and vote.

Please check your membership status to ensure you don't miss out.

If you are unsure of your membership expiry, or wish to join, renew or enquire, please contact the office:

Phone: 8981 2848

Email: foh.ntnt@internode.on.net

PATRON
His Honour the Honourable John Hardy OAM
Administrator of the Northern Territory

PRESIDENT
Mr Trevor Horman AM
VICE PRESIDENT
Dr Bill Low
TREASURER
Mr Colin Beard

BRANCH COUCELLORS
Mrs Gillian Banks OAM
Ms Janet Webber
Mrs Judy Boland
Mr David Hewitt OAM

GENERAL COUNCELLORS
Mr Roddy Calvert
Miss Margaret Clinch
Dr Jan Hills

MEMBERSHIP 2015

	1 year	3 years
Individual	\$65.00	\$195.00
Household	\$95.00	\$285.00
Senior	\$58.50	\$175.50
Senior Household	\$85.50	\$256.50
Pensioner	\$52.00	\$156.00
Pensioner Hsehld	\$76.00	\$228.00
Joining fee	\$35.00	

The National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory) is a community organisation which seeks to conserve the Territory's heritage.

Membership is open to everyone.

“In the footsteps of Goyder”

Driving Tour

On Sunday 8 March 40 brave souls, led by Trevor Menzies (former Surveyor General) and Trevor Horman, set out from Burnett House to follow in Goyders Footsteps.

Our first stop was at the Goyder plaque in Mitchell Street then onto the Goyder-Kerr plaque near the Deck Chair cinema area. Trevor Menzies had a large photographic overlay of Goyder camp, which was of great interest.

We journeyed to Virginia where Trevor Menzies gave a talk about the area before we walked 400m to North Terrace. We inspected wooden survey pegs (iron wood) in this area. We then walked thru all the streets originally mapped out for the township of Virginia.

Then onto Southport and explored the Police Station and Telegraph Station sites at Mira Square and the wharf area.

Next to the Three Wells Camp site on Edwins Creek and climbed up Packards Knob, which was the end of the tour.

The tour party clearly valued having a former Surveyor-General as the expert guide and the National Trust (NT) thanks Trevor Menzies for his participation in this historic event.



Anchor Display at Goyder Camp



Tour group arriving at Virginia Township



Tour group who made it to the top of Packards Knob

Goyder's Day 2015

At about 5.30pm on the afternoon of the 5th February 2015 a small boat came ashore near Jervois Park in the Darwin Waterfront area. It carried a young man dressed as a gentleman surveyor from the 19th Century – a reincarnation of George Woodroffe Goyder. He struggled up the rocks and set up his theodolite. Surveying of the Northern Territory started just as simply as this.

Goyder was the Surveyor General sent to establish by survey the town of Palmerston and the rural areas of the Northern Territory.

Unlike that time in 1869 when the SS Moonta arrived and the small party of men came ashore and only members of the Larrakia people met the newcomers, there were about 100 good citizens of Darwin waiting to see his arrival. Not only were there plenty of people to see it but also the good Darryl Manzie commented the event from the shores.

The National Trust created the special event to commemorate the arrival of Surveyor General George Woodroffe Goyder on the shores of Port Darwin back in 2008. It was designed to raise awareness of the establishment of our city and to ensure that a permanent site was set aside as a heritage listed place where Goyder first established his camp.

This year the Trust was delighted to hear from Terry O'Neill, Deputy CEO of the Darwin Waterfront Corporation, that an area of land which encompassed much of the original Goyder's campsite will be set aside as a heritage listed place and an interpreted park will be established on the site. This is great news that we have waited a long time to hear.



McDouall Stuart Branch

Our first event for 2015 was a very successful afternoon on February 28th at St Mary's Chapel, when 60 people attended the launch of the new brochure for The Robert Czakó Mural. The mural, which was painted by Czakó in 1958, includes many Biblical characters, people of all nationalities and cultures and depicts some of the St Mary's staff. Jose Petrick, a life member of National Trust who met the artist while he was painting the mural, gave a very good talk about the mural beginning at the Easter story. The McDouall Stuart Branch contributed to the printing costs of the new brochure, which has a large picture of the mural with a description of each story Czakó painted.

After the launch Glen Nelson, on behalf of the Tangentyere Council, presented framed images of humorous animal cartoons drawn by Robert Czakó in the children's dining room. Robert drew these cartoons for the children to look at while they were having their meals and doing their homework. Later the cartoons were covered up by an air-conditioner duct, but they were recently discovered by chance when a man who had been a child at St Mary's mentioned the cartoons during renovations by the Tangentyere Council who are now using that room as a Craft Activity Centre where afternoon tea was held. We all enjoyed the musical entertainment provided by Nicola and Peter Gilham.

On March 2nd the Hartley Street School and The Stuart Town Gaol were opened again after the usual break over the very hot weather period when very few tourists come to Alice Springs.

Preparations are underway for a very interesting Heritage Week, which begins on April 11th 2015 with considerable research being undertaken that will enhance the events of the week.



Photo is courtesy of Mike Gillam.

Katherine Branch

As the end of the Wet nears one of the gardening jobs needing attention prior to opening the properties is tree lopping.

O'Keeffe House has at least eight large mango trees (every second tree was removed some years ago) and this year the rest need lopping. Ian Banks has been tackling this job with a hand saw while Gillian and Merriel deal with the offcuts in between weeding and propagating pot plants in preparation for opening for the Heritage Festival.

The caretaker position is vacant meaning that Ian also mows the lawns at O'Keeffe while Brian Hill keeps the mowing at the 1926 Railway Station in order.

Bob Mackie has agreed to undertake two projects at the station with the Work for the Dole participants. Since the roller doors were installed a step reaching the full length of the doorway needs completing and the team will also construct a roof structure over the Fordson Tractor to protect it from the elements, at minimal cost to the Trust.

Both properties will open on Saturday 18th April for Heritage Festival between 10 am and 3pm with refreshments on sale and guided tours of both properties. A Heritage Bus tour will depart from O'Keeffe House at 1pm with local historians on board to provide a commentary on Katherine's World War II experiences.

Prior to Heritage Week, and also during the bus tour, Francesco and team from MysticMedia will film segments and speakers for a DVD entitled "Conflict and Compassion".

Commencing on 15th March, speakers will gather in O'Keeffe Garden to film their segments and on 22nd March they will meet with the Francesco at selected locations to film in situ.

A practice run for The OT LINE RALLY will take place on Saturday 4th July, to introduce the concept to prospective sponsors of the event, Tourism partners and NT Government Representatives. The main events will be in July 2017 and July 2022 marking the 145th and 150th anniversaries of the joining up of the Overland Telegraph Line cable.



Opening the 2015 Afternoon Tea Season at Burnett House - A Tale of all Weathers -

Almost unbelievably given the time of year, the sun was shining and the sky was blue as Anna, the Burnett House co-ordinator responsible amongst many other duties for our afternoon tea sessions on Sunday began to set up the tables for the first session this February. Why not set them up outside? After all, the umbrellas bought to substitute for the trees the garden lost to the new sewage system last year would shade patrons from the sun.

Alas, the weather eventually remembered the season and just as recent orders were being served and new orders taken, the heavens opened. What to do? Larrakeyah Branch National Trust volunteers are a very resourceful lot, and our customers are pretty clued-up too. Visitors were given a choice: would they prefer to stay on the lawn, sheltered by the umbrellas which we found out that day protect against rain as well as sun, or would they prefer to move inside?

Both options were popular. Both posed different logistical issues. How do you serve afternoon tea when the route between the kitchen and the table is open to the heavens, which themselves are opening? Apparently the answer is – you run, and you get wet. How do you relocate an outdoor table indoors? Simple. Two people – one at either end - pick up the table, with the setting intact on it, and run it into the house.

Nearly 30 visitors enjoyed their tea that day. The volunteers too seemed to have had a good time. Here's to another successful season...

National Trust / Historical Society Friday Evening Talks: February 2015

The joint National Trust Larrakeyah Branch and Historical Society Friday evening talks series opened for 2015 on 27 February, the last Friday of the month; the speaker was David Steinberg who works as a maritime archaeologist for the NT Heritage Branch. Whilst the subject of his talk was the discovery after nearly 30 years of the sailing vessel, the *Booya*, lost in Cyclone Tracy, his theme was maritime archaeology itself

David began by taking his large audience through a series of increasingly detailed images of the site of the *Booya* at the point of discovery. First came a mound on the seabed, next three distinct heaps of sediment, then a poignant and detailed outline of the wreck itself. The discovery was made not by professional archaeologists but by amateur investigators who were so inspired by their find that they still continue to search the Territory seabed for wrecks.

Once the *Booya* was discovered, it was the job of the Heritage Branch to manage a site - at the entrance to Darwin Harbour - that was not just a shipwreck, but also a grave. David made it clear that the first responsibility in these circumstances was to the family and friends of those who died. It seems the responsibility is ongoing, since David quite recently arranged for the sister of one of the crew members who died to visit the wreck in a submersible craft brought to Darwin by a film crew.

The wreck of the *Booya* was however the last chapter in a long history. Built in the Netherlands in 1917, she eventually arrived in Darwin in wartime to provision Australian troops fighting in the Indonesian islands, and afterwards was used as a coaster. David was lucky enough to meet two of those who knew the wartime *Booya*, young crewmembers that met up in Darwin many years later. Other wrecks in Darwin Harbour - like that of the *Zealandia*, which was sunk in the Japanese air raid of 19 February 1942 - also boasted a fascinating history. It was the *Zealandia*, which carried Darwin women and children south, away from the Japanese attacks, which soon afterwards would destroy it.

The irony of the wrecks in Darwin Harbour being retrieved for scrap by Japanese divers was a part of its history. The Japanese company involved had become expert in this type of work in Australian waters and worked all over the north and northeast coasts. The owner of the company apparently saw his work as reparation for earlier destruction; one Darwin church received a gift cast from brass found in the wrecks. When the owner's son visited Darwin after his father's death he brought a picture of his grave. Decorating it was part of a propeller from one of the ship's engines recovered in his salvage work in Darwin Harbour.

David pointed out that, fascinating as it is, maritime archaeology always deals with crises and calamities. The challenge for its practitioners is to give due weight to the wide range of interests which attach to their discoveries. His audience on this occasion learned how fascinating that task might be.

